

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

§ 9.45

the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Federal Government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(d) In making a determination regarding a request for a waiver or reduction of fees, the NRC will consider the following factors:

(1) How the subject of the requested agency records concerns the operations or activities of the Federal Government;

(2) How the disclosure of the information is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of Federal Government operations or activities;

(3) The extent to which, the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested agency records; and whether that commercial interest exceeds the public interest in disclosure.

(e) The Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Officer will make an initial determination whether a request for a waiver or reduction of fees meets the requirements of this section. The Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Officer will inform requesters whenever their request for a waiver or reduction of fees is denied and will inform them of their appeal rights under § 9.29.

§ 9.43 Processing requests for a waiver or reduction of fees.

(a) Within 20 working days after receipt of a request for access to agency records for which the NRC agrees to waive fees under § 9.39 (a) through (d) or § 9.41(c), the NRC will respond to the request as provided in § 9.25.

(b) In making a request for a waiver or reduction of fees, a requester shall provide the information required by § 9.41(b).

(c) After receipt of a request for the waiver or reduction of fees made in accordance with § 9.41, the NRC will either waive or reduce the fees and notify the requester of the NRC's intent to provide the agency records promptly or deny the request and provide a statement to the requester explaining why the request does not meet the requirements of § 9.41(b).

(d) As provided in § 9.29, a requester may appeal a denial of a request to waive or reduce fees to the Secretary to the Commission. The appeal must be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of the notice.

§ 9.45 Annual report to the Attorney General of the United States.

(a) On or before February 1 of each year, the NRC will submit a report covering the preceding fiscal year to the Attorney General of the United States which shall include—

(1) The number of determinations made by the NRC to deny requests for records made to the NRC under this part and the reasons for each determination;

(2) The number of appeals made by persons under § 9.29, the results of the appeals, and the reason for the action taken on each appeal that results in a denial of information;

(3) A complete list of all statutes that the NRC relied upon to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of 5 U.S.C. 552, a description of whether a court has upheld the decision of the NRC to withhold information under each such statute, and a concise description of the scope of any information withheld;

(4) The number of requests for records pending before the NRC as of September 30 of the preceding year, and the median number of days that such requests had been pending before the agency as of that date;

(5) The number of requests for records received by the NRC and the number of requests that the NRC processed;

(6) The median number of days taken to process different types of requests;

(7) The total amount of fees collected by the NRC for processing requests;

(8) The number of full-time staff of the NRC devoted to processing requests under the FOIA and the total amount expended for processing these requests.

(b) The NRC will make a copy of the most recent report available to the public at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>.

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